



Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



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Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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For the week ending September 27, 2015
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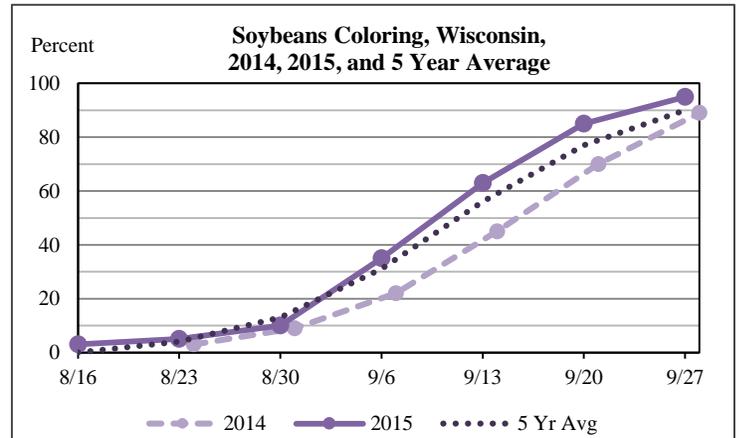
Dry, Warm Conditions Facilitate Fieldwork

There were 6.2 **days suitable for fieldwork** during the week ending September 27, 2015, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. It was a dry and mild week for much of Wisconsin, with no precipitation reported at four of the five major weather stations. Corn silage chopping and fourth crop hay harvest advanced steadily as farmers took advantage of the clear weather. Some reporters noted farmers scrambling to chop silage before the plants became too dry. The soybean harvest was gearing up, fall seeding and manure spreading were going strong, and high moisture corn harvest was beginning in some areas. This was the fourth week in a row of above average temperatures statewide. Reporters commented that conditions have been excellent for crop maturity, pasture condition, and the emergence of fall plantings.

Topsoil moistures were 10 percent short to very short on average compared to 6 percent the previous week. **Subsoil moistures** were 12 percent short to very short compared to 13 percent last week.

As of September 27, 44 percent of the **corn** crop had reached maturity, 5 days ahead of last year but 3 days behind the five-year average. The corn crop was rated 79 percent good to excellent, 1 percentage point up from the previous week. Corn harvested for silage was 63 percent complete, 14 days ahead of last year and 1 day ahead the five-year average. Sixty-nine percent of the **soybean** crop was dropping leaves, 5 days ahead of last year and 2 days ahead the five-year average. Eighty-one percent of the soybean crop was rated good to excellent. Seventy-seven percent of **potatoes** had been harvested statewide, 5 days ahead of last year. Thirty-three percent of **winter wheat** planting was complete, 6 days ahead of last year. **Fall tillage** was at 11 percent complete, 4 days ahead of last year and 2 days ahead of the five-year average.

Pasture condition was rated 63 percent good to excellent, down 2 percentage points from last week. The **fourth cutting of alfalfa** was 92 percent harvested, the second fastest pace in more than 35 years, trailing only 2012.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 27, 2015

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn.....	1	4	16	53	26
Pasture & Range..	3	10	24	46	17
Soybeans.....	1	4	14	54	27

Wisconsin Crop Progress as of September 27, 2015

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent									Percent			
Alfalfa hay, fourth cutting.....	78	66	71	86	93	79	88	87	63	82	73	65	72
Corn in or beyond dent stage....	87	83	85	87	96	90	95	98	89	91	84	81	89
Corn mature.....	45	24	21	42	46	47	45	48	54	44	26	34	51
Corn harvested for silage.....	55	43	56	73	70	56	77	84	60	63	33	29	62
Fall Tillage.....	9	8	13	11	15	13	13	9	13	11	7	8	7
Potatoes harvested.....	50	96	92	99	72	n.a.	62	60	n.a.	77	58	65	n.a.
Soybeans coloring.....	98	96	100	90	99	93	95	95	94	95	85	86	90
Soybeans dropping leaves.....	62	62	76	71	77	72	69	69	61	69	36	54	63
Winter wheat planted.....	33	57	21	26	52	39	44	25	15	33	16	18	n.a.
Winter wheat emerged.....	16	22	2	4	14	6	11	7	2	7	1	3	n.a.

n.a.=not available

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of September 27, 2015

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Days									Days		
Days Suitable	4.5	6.3	6.9	5.1	6.8	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.3	6.2	4.7	6.0
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0
Short.....	2	8	7	8	17	5	9	14	8	9	6	8
Adequate.....	82	89	80	81	76	77	62	79	76	77	78	80
Surplus.....	16	0	13	10	7	18	27	6	16	13	16	12
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	3	0	1	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	0
Short.....	2	8	8	6	13	10	17	19	12	11	12	10
Adequate.....	87	89	87	86	82	76	79	76	82	82	80	80
Surplus.....	11	0	5	7	5	14	0	4	6	6	7	10

Wisconsin Crop Progress

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

BARRON-T.B.: Corn silage harvest going full speed, most growers 50 percent or more completed. Most corn is mature, but is slow to dry down. Saw the first soybeans being harvested, reports of elevated moisture levels. Lots of field activity as cover crops being sown quickly after fields are harvested. Many taking a final cutting of hay and weather cooperated for drying. Some fall manure applications happening.

BAYFIELD-C.B.: Significant rainfall throughout the area earlier this week. Despite wet field conditions, many dairy farmers have started chopping corn silage. Pasture is still good, despite the late date.

MARATHON-S.N.: Lovely fall weather with warm breezes and lots of sunshine. Dried out the fields and the crops. Corn silage and snaplage harvest just beginning. Farmers report smaller cobs on corn than usual.

SHAWANO-J.N.: Soybean harvest has begun. Some early high moisture corn has also started. Winter wheat planting is in full swing. All is good!

ST CROIX-D.K.: Corn silage harvest between rains has been a struggle for those not completed.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: The favorable weather of the past week has allowed work to pick up on the harvest of corn silage. The maturity of corn and soybeans is the best in many years for late September. Early planted winter wheat is looking great.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: Exceptionally dry and warm weather the past week allowed for a lot of field work to get done. The biggest job getting done now is the chopping of corn silage. Quite a bit of this crop has been taken off now. And with the warm temperatures, the corn has been maturing quickly and drying down fast too. So there is some urgency to get the corn chopped as the moisture levels may be such that some corn may not make good quality feed. All the corn and soybeans have been drying down and, while no corn for

grain has been harvested yet, some soybeans are starting to come off. Yields have been very good so far. Barring any rain this coming week, even more acres will be cleared off. Winter wheat is getting planted now too. The weather for seeding down has been ideal, with the warm and dry conditions allowing for easy planting and even emergence. Some fall tillage is beginning to get done as well, though some producers may be waiting for the manure to get applied to those fields before the tillage is attempted. And even some late crop alfalfa is still being cut, though at this time of year, it is important to harvest the crop at such a time to allow regrowth to take place before the plants go dormant.

CRAWFORD-J.B.: This has been a good drying week. Corn being chopped for silage is wrapping up and fourth cutting hay is being harvested. About 45 percent of the corn has reached full maturity and weeks like this just allow it dry more in the fields. Many soybeans are turning yellow and starting to drop their foliage.

DANE-F.P.: High moisture shell corn is being harvested. One field was at 32 percent moisture and another was at 34 percent moisture. Most of the corn for silage has been harvested.

ROCK-C.O.: Soybean harvest and high moisture corn harvest has begun. Soybeans are dry, but stems are not. Very tough on machines.

OZAUKEE-G.S.: A lot of silage came off the fields and a lot of fourth crop hay was made last week as the weather was near perfect for harvest.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 27, 2015

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sep. 26	Mar. 1 to Sep. 26 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	75	55	80	42	65	+8	2685	2401	0.01	4.51	+1.07	32.07	+5.35
Green Bay	75	53	79	47	64	+7	2647	2266	0.00	5.66	+2.85	21.87	-1.15
La Crosse	78	57	81	49	68	+7	3197	2704	0.00	2.56	-0.52	25.28	-1.33
Madison	76	52	80	46	64	+5	2902	2656	0.00	3.96	+1.12	26.95	+0.27
Milwaukee	72	55	79	50	63	+2	2597	n.a.	0.00	3.81	+0.84	21.57	-5.39

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. *Normal based on 1971-2000 data. n.a.=not available. T=trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

For more weather data, please reference the following sites: <http://www.noaa.gov/> <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/> <http://www.cocorahs.org/> <http://www.weather.gov/>

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.